

## ELIHU ROOT'S SPEECH

To the Russian Council of Ministers Was a Masterpiece—He Told Them in a Clear and Straightforward Way What to Expect.

The speech of Elihu Root, head of the American Commission to Russia, addressed to the council of ministers, was in exactly the right tone. There was nothing patronizing in it, nor was there in it the least suggestion of a purpose to instruct the Russian people, or their new government, in their duty. Mr. Root did indeed tell them, and in a very clear and straightforward way, something of the nature of the American government and its history, and also of its purpose in entering the war. The appeal was for complete sympathy and co-operation between the two democracies in this gigantic struggle against autocracy. "We believe," said the great American, "in the competence of the power of democracy, and in our heart of hearts abides faith in the coming of a better world in which the humble and oppressed of all lands may be lifted up by freedom to a heritage of justice and equal opportunity."

Mr. Root expressed, both on his own part and of the nation that he so worthily represents, an entire faith in the ability of the Russian people to solve their own problems and to maintain their own freedom. But democracies sometimes have to fight for their life. This is true today—truer of the Russian democracy than of our own, since it is less firmly founded, and is also closer to the danger that threatens it. We quote from this wholly admirable speech:

"One fearful danger threatens the liberty of both nations. The armed forces of a military autocracy are at the gates of Russia and the allies. The triumph of the German arms will mean the death of liberty in Russia. No enemy is at the gates of America, but America has come to realize that the triumph of German arms means the death of liberty in the world, that we who love liberty and would keep it must fight for it, and fight for it now when the free democracies of the world may be strong in union, and not delay until they may be beaten down separately in succession. So, America sends another message to Russia—that we are going to fight, and have already begun to fight for our freedom equally with yours. We would make your cause ours and our cause yours; and, with a common purpose and mutual helpfulness of a firm alliance, make sure of victory over a common foe."

The case thus presented is, not America's case, but the case of the world—including Russia—as far as it loves liberty. The thought is of partnership in a great undertaking. It is to the credit of the new Russia—a fact that has not been kept in mind by those who have criticized her—that she demands some assurances as to what she is expected to fight for. For with the passing of the old regime, it was inevitable that there should be some shifting of the point of view. A cause that would have stirred the old Russia to war might, conceivably, be powerless to move the new Russia. The entrance of this country into the struggle makes the path of the present government easier and plainer. The President's message to the Russian people and his Flag Day address still further clarified the situation. And now we have these solemn and weighty words from Elihu Root, who is better qualified than any other available man

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in this country, for the great task which he is now performing. In his reply to Mr. Root's speech the Russian minister for foreign affairs said:

"The Russian people consider war inevitable and will continue it. The Russians have no imperialistic wishes. We know that you have none. We shall fight together to secure liberty, freedom and happiness for all the world. I am happy to say that I do not see any moral idea or factor between America and Russia to divide us. We two peoples—Russia fighting tyranny, and America standing as the oldest democracy—hand in hand will show the way of happiness to nations great and small."

The Root Commission will, we have no doubt, be able to render valuable service. Indeed, it has already accomplished great good. It may turn out that America's entrance into the war thwarted the Prussian intrigue for a separate peace—which now seems unlikely. If so, it has been worth two or three millions of soldiers to the allies even should we not send a brigade to France.

## WAR FUND SET ASIDE FOR RELIEF

Set Aside for Relief by Procter & Gamble Company Amounts to \$1,000 for Every Business Day of Year.

The Board of Directors of the Procter & Gamble Company has appropriated a special fund to be set aside for war expenses during the period of the war. The fund amounts to \$1,000 a day for every business day.

The fund will be drawn upon to make donations to various relief funds and for other purposes connected with the war, President William Cooper Procter explained. None of the money will be used for company purposes.

The directors have authorized the appropriation for every business day from April 6, the date war was declared on Germany, until December 31. This totals \$225,000.

Mr. Procter explained, however, that it was the intention to continue the special appropriation throughout the duration of the war.

So far as is known, the Procter & Gamble Company is the first industrial concern to set aside such a fund for war-relief purposes.

Stockholders were notified of the action.

And still they have poor devils working for less than three dollars per day.

## MOONEY BAILIFF IS OUSTED.

San Francisco.—The bailiff in Judge Dunne's court, where Rena Mooney is on trial for murder, has been dismissed because of scandals connected with the jury selection and which have involved the district attorney's office.

The accused is the wife of Thomas J. Mooney, who has been found guilty of the bomb plot of last year on testimony now known to be perjured.

## GOVERNOR PLEADS IN VAIN FOR WOMEN

Springfield, Ill.—Governor Lowden's attempt to revive the women's eight-hour bill proved a failure in the Senate when the body rejected the proposal.

The state executive sent a special measure to the legislature urging a reduction of hours in this case and called attention to last year's declarations of all political parties for shorter hours for women.

"Clearly, we are committed to legislation which will substantially limit the hours of labor for women employed in industrial pursuits," said Governor Lowden.

"But it is said that war alters the situation. I submit that if it does alter the situation, it makes this legislation more imperative. England thought at the opening of the war that it was made necessary, because of the war, to increase rather than decrease the number of hours of labor. It has been shown very conclusively by the experience of England that this increase was at the expense of both efficiency and economy."

"The British government last year, after an exhaustive investigation through a very able committee, reached the conclusion that from every standpoint, that of efficiency as well as the health of the women, overtime should be abolished and an eight-hour day established for them. Hence the argument of even temporary necessity fails. Moreover, let us not forget the purpose of this legislation."

"That purpose is to safeguard the future of the nation."

"War must of necessity impair the fatherhood of future generations, doubly important is it then that we take every precaution to protect the mothers of the next generation. I believe that need for legislation limiting the hours of work for women is more imperative than if we were at peace."

## URGE ASIATIC WAR LABOR.

New York.—The board of trade and transportation has made public a list of prominent citizens who join with it in advocating Asiatic labor during the war. The list includes former Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, President Butler of Columbia University, President Hadley of Yale University and bankers and business men from various sections of the country who assume to speak for "the people."

The committee states that some persons are against the plan because they are afraid that "the coolies, once in, will be slow to go out."

These fears are declared to be groundless, as it is stated that "there would be no lack of zeal" among officers to deport the Orientals.

Under these conditions it is assumed by the trustful board of trade and transportation that no corporation would hesitate to ship its allotment of Orientals back to their native land when officers of the law give the high sign.

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